

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly cancel claims 1-9 and 12 without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter therein.

Kindly replace claims 10, 13, 20-25, and 27 as follows.

A₂ Sub B1
10. (Amended) An isolated, substantially pure natural or synthetic polypeptide comprising a cathepsin L type cysteine protease having an apparent molecular weight ranging from 15 to 32 kilodaltons;
wherein the cysteine protease polypeptide is a polypeptide fragment.

A₃ Sub B3
13. (Amended) A cosmetic/pharmaceutical composition comprising an isolated, substantially pure natural or synthetic polypeptide comprising a cathepsin L type cysteine protease having an apparent molecular weight ranging from 15 to 32 kilodaltons, or fragment thereof;
formulated into physiologically acceptable medium therefor.

A₂₄
20. (Amended) A regime or regimen for combating excessive intercorneocyte cohesion or for promoting desquamation in a mammalian subject in need of such treatment, comprising topically applying to the skin or mucosae of such mammalian subject an effective amount of an isolated, substantially pure natural or synthetic polypeptide

comprising a cathepsin L type cysteine protease having an apparent molecular weight ranging from 15 to 32 kilodaltons.

21. (Amended) A regime or regimen for treating a desquamation disorder or affliction affecting a mammalian subject in need of such treatment, comprising administering to such mammalian subject an effective amount of an isolated, substantially pure natural or synthetic polypeptide comprising a cathepsin L type cysteine protease having an apparent molecular weight ranging from 15 to 32 kilodaltons.

22. (Amended) A regime or regimen for treating hyperkeratosis affecting a mammalian subject in need of such treatment, comprising administering to such mammalian subject an effective amount of an isolated, substantially pure natural or synthetic polypeptide comprising a cathepsin L type cysteine protease having an apparent molecular weight ranging from 15 to 32 kilodaltons.

23. (Amended) A regime or regimen for treating xerosis, ichthyoses, psoriasis, benign or malignant tumor lesions, or reactive keratoses affecting a mammalian subject in need of such treatment, comprising administering to such mammalian subject an effective amount of an isolated, substantially pure natural or synthetic polypeptide comprising a cathepsin L type cysteine protease having an apparent molecular weight ranging from 15 to 32 kilodaltons.

24. (Amended) A regime or regimen for treating leukokeratosis of the uterine neck during prolapsus, buccal leukokeratoses or keratotic benign tumor lesions of the malpighian mucosae affecting a mammalian subject in need of such treatment, comprising administering to such mammalian subject an effective amount of an isolated, substantially pure natural or synthetic polypeptide comprising a cathepsin L type cysteine protease having an apparent molecular weight ranging from 15 to 32 kilodaltons.

25. (Amended) An isolated, substantially pure natural or synthetic polypeptide comprising a cathepsin L type cysteine protease having an apparent molecular weight ranging from 15 to 32 kilodaltons;

wherein the cysteine protease polypeptide is a complex of said cysteine protease polypeptide, or polypeptide fragment thereof, and having any structural or functional molecule specifically bonded thereto.

27. (Amended) An isolated, substantially pure natural or synthetic polypeptide comprising a cathepsin L type cysteine protease having an apparent molecular weight ranging from 15 to 32 kilodaltons;

wherein the cysteine protease polypeptide is a monoclonal antibody or antisera prepared/purified from the cysteine protease polypeptide, or polypeptide fragment thereof.